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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/865,371

05/25/2001

Earl Walter Emerick

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09/05/2006

IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
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EXAMINER

LANEAU, RONALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/865,371

Applicant(s)

EMERICK ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald Laneau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 6/22/06 has been entered. Claims 1-46 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhat (US 5,668,995) in view of Cline et al (US 2002/0087897 A1).

Bhat discloses a method of operating a computerized system to provide computer recommendation information including the steps of generating an operation profile for a computer using machine information specific to the computer and obtained from the computer (see abs.), wherein the operation profile indicates at least a usage trend for the computer and generating a recommendation for at least one computer system solution which satisfies at least the projected requirements (see claim 19, paragraph d). Bhat further discloses the steps of generating the operation profile, receiving the machine information from the computer via a network connection (see figs. 2A, 2B; all information is received within the network). Bhat discloses a system that can collect the system's performance at intervals shorter than the first timed intervals as claimed (see fig. 1); a system wherein the plurality of system options are provided by a plurality of third party solution providers (col. 5, lines 60-65), further include the steps of configuring the at least one computer system solution to indicate system specifications

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and a price (col. 6, lines 32-38). Jon does not disclose a computer system solution based on the usage trend as claimed but Cline discloses determining projected requirements for at least one computer system solution based on the usage trend for the computer and obtained from the computer (page 3, [0038] – [0039]); further discloses future possible configurations for a computer system wherein a user of the system is allowed to make modifications to the configuration whether it's the specifications or price (page 3, [0034]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the system solution based on the usage trend as taught by Cline into the system of Bhat because it would provide such comprehensive control over operational states of a computer system.

As per claims 3-4, 6-7, 13, 19, 28-29 and 33, the system as taught by Bath is well capable of allowing a user to modify the recommendation base on the usage patterns of the network and also generating recommendation comprising processing system requirements specifications reflecting a desired future use of the computer (see fig. 1).

As per claims 9, 11-12, 14, 20-22, 33, 35-36, 40, 42, 44 and 45, Bhat discloses configuring the at least one computer solution to indicate specifications and price; receiving a purchase order for configured system; receiving a configuration selection from the user to modify the starting configuration; determining whether the configuration selection is valid; and if so, producing a configured system viewable by the user (col. 1 lines 52 to col. 2, line 10).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that the present rejection fails to establish at least the third criterion of a prima facie case of obviousness. In response to Applicant's arguments, Bhat would normally allow a user to search for information specific about a computer and obtained such information from the computer itself. This kind of information must be specific to said computer since one is trying to determine the amount of usage and if any services are needed. Claims 1-46 remain rejected.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

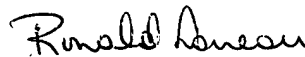
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald Laneau whose telephone number is (571) 272-6784. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ronald Laneau
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627

8/23/06

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